

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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News About Sword Literature

208 Reported Conversions In First 6 Months of Year, 32 In June

VIOLA WALDEN, Office Manager

Last week we felt a special concern for many sections of the work, so Thursday night, June 29, we asked those of our helpers who could, to join in a time of prayer at 8:00. (Each morning at 10:00 we call our workers together for prayer). Seven of the workers were present, also our pastor, Rev. J. C. Macauley, Dr. Rice's song leader, Rev. Shufelt, another special friend of ours here, Mr. H. S. DeVelde, and Dr. and Mrs. Rice. For some time we have felt God wanted us to enlarge *The Sword of the Lord* to eight pages—we asked his leading there. Then the printer of the paper, Mr. Wm. H. McNitzky, of Denton, Texas, has been short-handed. If he is to print an eight page paper, then he will need more help and larger equipment—we asked God for that. Then we have just given a contract for a million copies of the booklet, *What Must I Do to Be Saved*, printing alone for which will cost \$5,800. Other bills are coming due. Then Dr. Rice has a great need for an associate editor. We are mailing out 63,000 sample copies of the paper—all these we gathered to pray about. Then we prayed for God's blessing on the literature until almost 11:00 o'clock. It was a time of heart-searching and real praying. After we had laid these things before the Lord, we read some of the letters which had come to the office last week, letters from those who had trusted Christ for salvation. After we had finished, one of the group remarked, "You get so many good letters like these, I suppose they become commonplace after a while." Oh, but that isn't true! They are "love-letters" to us. The angels are ahead of us just a little—they rejoice when the sinner turns to Christ: we have to wait for the letter, but our time comes! The more letters we get from those who have trusted Christ, the more certain we become that God is using this means to save sinners.

In checking the records today for the past six months, we found that we had letters from 208 people reported as having trusted Christ after reading books and pamphlets written by Dr. Rice, or sermons published in *The Sword of the Lord*. Thirty-two of these letters came in June, thirty from the booklets, and two from sermons published in the paper.

Here are a few of the letters:

Marine Saved: "Literally on fire for God"

"June 24, 1944

"Dear Brother Rice:

"My husband was drafted into the Marines March 29. He was one of the most unconcerned persons I ever saw, and didn't think he had done anything bad enough to be saved. I had been praying for him for 5 years. So when he went to leave I tucked in a little Bible and one of your little booklets on *What Must I Do To Be Saved?*

"It wasn't long until he wrote back he was studying them both, and on May 14, he was in church and was gloriously saved. He wouldn't let the chaplain baptize

him, but last week he was home on furlough and was baptized into the First Baptist Church here at home. He was literally on fire for God. He told everyone he met about his experience with God. The night he was baptized the church was packed (a lot from curiosity) and he got up and told the entire house what a Savior he had.

"Before he came home, he won five Marines to Christ (2 Catholics). Now he's gone back and he wants some more of your little booklets on *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* to help him win more Marines.

Mrs. L. B. Newata, Okla.

"I Gave My Heart to Jesus the Best I Could"

"June 22, 1944

"Evangelist John R. Rice

"Wheaton, Illinois

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I am writing this letter in bed. I want to tell you about my life. I want to say that I have made a mess of it.

"About ten years ago, I attended a meeting and the preacher preached on Hell. I thought I was saved. I was brought up in the

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The Bible Proves That PRAYER BRINGS REVIVAL

The Most Important Reason Why Souls Are Not Saved In Our Churches, Why Soul-Winning Does Not Flourish Everywhere There Is a Christian, Is Because of the Lack of Persistent, Fervent, Prevailing Prayer.

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."—Luke 24:49.

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James, the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."—Acts 1:13, 14.

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness... And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all... And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."—Acts 4:31, 33; Acts 5:14.

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul, for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands upon them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus."—Acts 13:2-4.

I. WHAT WE MEAN BY REVIVAL

Revival of God's People And Soul-Winning Are Inseparable

When I say that prayer brings revival, I mean that prayer brings about the salvation of sinners. Prayer endues Christians with power from on high, so that they win souls.

I know that it is customary to draw a meticulous distinction between a revival among Christians and evangelism among lost people. Those who already have life are refreshed and made to live abundantly in a revival, we are told. Lost people cannot be revived, they must be reborn. And that distinction in the basic meaning of the terms is legitimate. But in actual practice a revival among Christians, a true revival of New Testament Christianity, a revival of the power and blessing of almighty God on His children, always brings about the salvation of sinners. In actual practice a revival campaign and an evangelistic campaign are the same.

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). So when Christians get right and go to following Christ, he makes them into soul-winners. Whatever revives Christians, wins sinners.

Again Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Every time a Christian is revived, in the sense that he feels Christ's presence, that his will is surrendered to Christ, so that he is conscious of the favor, the presence, the power of Christ, and does the will of Christ, then that Christian inevitably bears fruit. A Christian abiding in Christ must win souls, does win souls. A revived Christian is a soul-winner.

The love that Christians have for Christ sometimes grows cold, but if that love be wonderfully revived and burns hot again, in the Christian's heart, it will win souls. For Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me" (John 14:21), and again He said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23). So when love is revived in the heart of a Christian, what does he do? Immediately he will set out to observe the great commission, the Saviour's primal command. Immediately he will set out to win souls, the object nearest the heart of the Lord Jesus. A revived love makes soul-winners.

These illustrations prove that there is no real distinction between a Bible revival of Christians and evangelism among the unsaved. They are parts of the same great movement of the Spirit of God. So when I say that prayer brings revival, I mean that prayer brings about the conversion of the unsaved and puts the church and the Christian back into the soul-winning business. It is perfectly right to call the great evangelistic campaigns of Charles G. Finney, of D.

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145 N. Hale Street Wheaton, Ill.

The Precious Blood of Jesus

EVANGELIST JOE HENRY HANKINS, D. D.

(Sermon preached October 8, 1943, at Claim Street Baptist Church, Aurora, Illinois. Stenographically reported for *The Sword of the Lord*.)

We read two passages, first, I John 1:7:

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The other is I Peter 1:18,19:

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

IN THESE TWO SCRIPTURES THERE ARE TWO THINGS WHICH STAND IN CONTRAST WITH EACH OTHER. THERE IS SIN ON THE ONE HAND AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE OTHER.

I. WHAT SIN DOES

Sin is the most tragic fact in human life, the blackest page in human history. The saddest day in the history of the human race was when sin entered the world. Paul said, "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin." One of the strangest things in human life to me is why people will listen to the devil and follow sin, why people cannot learn by observation and by the experience of the human race for six thousand years that sin does not pay. Sin robs human life of everything that is really worth while.

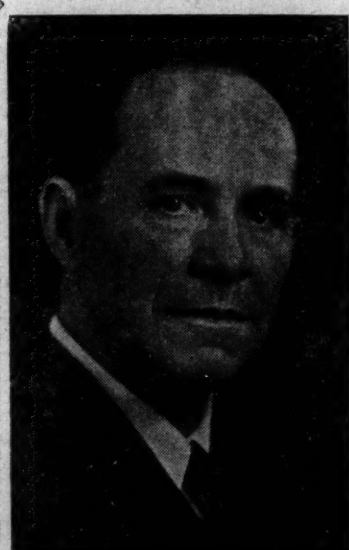
1. Sin is Destructive.

When Paul said, "The wages of sin is death," he was not merely talking about physical death, but about spiritual death also. Those two are included in it. But the wages of sin is death to everything that is worthwhile in human life. It is death to human character. It is death to happiness. O, how it destroys! That is what Paul means when he said, "The wages of sin is death." Sin is the most destructive thing in the world. It destroys human bodies, breaks them down and brings disease and physical

suffering. It brings people to an untimely grave.

I have a book in my library entitled "The Economic Waste of Sin," written by a great physician and a great business man working in conjunction. After research and study, the authors of that book came to the conclusion that sin costs the average man in America twenty-five years of his life. Think of it! The price of sin costs the average American twenty-five years of his life! I tell you, that is an awful price to pay for sin, isn't it? If you could go to some of the health resorts and see them come. I have lived near Hot Springs, Arkansas, all my life and that is one of the great health resorts of the world. One of the most pitiful things you ever saw in your life is to go there and see the wrecks of sin as they come in there for treatment.

But sin not only destroys human bodies; it destroys human minds. In the last generation the state of Arkansas has had to enlarge its insane asylum more than fourfold: in one generation! I was talking one day to the superintendent of that institution and he said to me, "What brings these people here?"



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

What causes this trouble?" He said, "Preacher, ninety-five percent of it is sin." He said, "It is caused by their own sins or by the sins of those who went before them." The wages of sin is death.

Sin destroys homes. Go to the divorce courts of America and see them grinding out their awful toll of human wreckage. I care not what the cause that brings on a divorce, nor who is to blame nor who is not—it can not happen without hurting everybody that is concerned in it.

One of the finest women that I had in my church when I was a pastor in Texas had her home broken by sin when her little boy was just a baby. She took that child and, facing life with a broken heart, tried to bring him up for the Lord. One of the last things she old me after her boy was grown and married was, "Brother Hank-

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PRAYER Asking and Receiving

America's best seller on Prayer, by Dr. John R. Rice. 328 pages, 21 chapters. \$1.50.

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The Bible Proves That Prayer Brings Revival

(Continued from page one)

L. Moody, and of R. A. Torrey, and of J. Wilbur Chapman and of Billy Sunday, revivals. Successful evangelistic campaigns are always revivals. The evangelistic campaign that is not a revival is not successful. Evangelism and revival cannot be divorced.

The Fulness of the Spirit Is Revival

Spirit-filled Christians win souls. Christians not filled with the Spirit do not win souls. The fulness of the Spirit is the one and only equipment that makes a soul-winner.

Jesus said to His disciples before He went away, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and through the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8). When the Holy Spirit came on them, they would have power, would witness for Jesus, with soul-winning power.

The Holy Spirit now dwells in every believer. Only as He fills and controls the Christian is the Christian prepared for God's work. As D. L. Moody said, it is foolish and presumptuous to try to do God's work without God's power. We do not need to seek for the Holy Spirit to dwell in our bodies, if we are saved. He is the one who saved us, and when He saved us He came in to dwell forever. In Corinthians 6:18 and 20 and Romans 8:9 show that the Holy Spirit now lives in the body of every believer. But His fulness, His anointing, His coming upon one for power, in soul-winning is an entirely different matter. Many Christians, truly saved, having the Holy Spirit abiding in them, know nothing of His soul-winning power, because they have never sought it. The fulness of the Spirit is an entirely different manifestation of the Holy Spirit than His indwelling.

The *incoming* of the Holy Spirit, representing the Saviour, to cleanse and regenerate the human heart and make His bode in the human body and the human life, means salvation and security. But the flood-tides of the Holy Spirit, filling the Christian, means revival, and hence soul-winning passion and power.

It is in this latter sense that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit who will "teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). It is in this sense of His fulness that the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, is promised to testify of Jesus and make it so the Christian also shall bear witness (John 15:26, 27). It is only when the Holy Spirit fills Christians with His mighty power that He reproves the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment, bringing conviction to the unsaved, as Jesus promised in John 16:8.

Therefore, if we seek revival, we must seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If we want to win souls, and want our churches to have floodtides of blessing with multitudes saved, we must seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and seek to have our churches filled with the Holy Spirit.

Take note carefully that when the Bible speaks about the fulness of the Spirit, and commands Christians to be filled with the Spirit, the Scripture neither commands Christians to seek nor authorizes them to expect speaking in tongues nor sinless perfection, nor eradication of the carnal nature. When the Bible commands Christians to be filled with the Spirit, it simply means that we should desire and seek and find the mighty outpouring of God's power, as the Holy Spirit takes possession and fills us and uses us. And remember that

Christ is primarily interested in winning souls. That is what He came to earth to do. That is what He rejoices over now in Heaven. That is the central object in His Great Commission given to every Christian. That is what He sends the Holy Spirit upon His disciples for. The fulness of the Spirit is to make soul-winners. We shall receive power and witness for Jesus when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, as Jesus plainly said in Acts 1:8.

A revival, then, among God's people, means a great turning to soul-winning. And the passion, and spiritual wisdom and supernatural power required for soul-winning are brought about by the fulness of the Holy Spirit.

Now that we have tried to show what a revival is, a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost on God's people to make them soul-winners, let us show that such a revival is brought about by prayer.

II. THE BIBLE PROMISES REVIVAL IN ANSWER TO PRAYER

It is certain that the Bible promises revival in answer to prayer. Note the following proof.

1. First, General Prayer Promises Certainly Include Revival And The Power of the Holy Spirit For Soul-Winning

There are a number of very definite promises which mention the power of the Holy Spirit and encourage us to pray for this power and pray for a revival. But before we come to them, I call your attention to the fact that many, many general promises of answers to prayer cover this question of soul-winning revival power. Consider the following:

a. *Jeremiah 29:12, 13* "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." We can seek God, and can find Him, when we search for Him with all of our hearts, says this Scripture. Any honest interpretation of this promise must make it mean that we can find God's blessing and cleansing of their sins, their endowment of power from on high, for soul-winning, His smile of prosperity on their efforts to get the gospel out to every creature.

b. *John 14:13, 14* "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Here is a promise that covers literally anything. "Whatsoever," provided you can ask it in Jesus' name. "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." Christ specially commanded us to win souls. It is the matter nearest His heart. It ought to be easier to beseech the Lord for a revival, for help to do His blessed work of winning souls, than to pray about anything else. Beyond any peradventure, this promise is intended to cover the matter of power for the Lord's work. In fact, this promise is directly connected with the preceding verse, John 14:12, which says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." It is specially concerning the works which Jesus did and which He left for us to do after Him, that we are to pray for anything and get it!

c. *Mark 9:23*, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Here the father of the afflicted son came to plead with Jesus to heal his demon-possessed boy. The father had just prayed, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us." Then Jesus told him that if he could believe, in connection with such a prayer, then all things are possible to one who believes. If God's "all things" covered the case of the afflicted boy, it also covered everything else, and hence it covers revivals. It would be a fair and honest paraphrase of the words of Jesus to say, "If thou canst believe revivals are possible to him that believeth."

d. *Mark 11:24*. "Therefore I say

unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Jesus said, "What things soever ye desire." Then if you desire a revival and souls saved, this promise fits your case, and it would be fair to paraphrase the promise in these words: "The revivals ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." With such a promise in the Bible, certainly Christians have the plain obligation to pray for revival. Or if Christians need a special endowment of power from God, they have a right to paraphrase it, "The fulness of the Spirit ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive it and ye shall have it." Where God gives faith for revivals when you pray, He will give the revival. Where God gives you faith to claim the power and fulness of the Holy Spirit in soul-winning, this promise guarantees you shall have them. And so it is.

e. *Matthew 18:19*. "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." Again we have a universal promise that covers every human need. This promise is about revivals, about the promise of the Holy Spirit for soul-winning, because it is about literally anything. It would be an honest paraphrase of this Scripture, clearly within the divinely inspired meaning, to quote the promise thus, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching revivals, and the power of the Holy Spirit, that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." "Anything" certainly includes revivals, includes the fulness of the Spirit and His mighty soul-winning power.

f. *Matthew 21:22*. (And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.) This is a general promise about all things whatsoever. It literally means "all revivals, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." And "all the power of the Holy Spirit, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

g. *James 4:2*. "Ye have not because ye ask not." If this promise applies to daily food for the body, it also applies to food for the soul. If it applies to help in man's business, it certainly applies to help in God's business. If we have not jobs because we ask not, then we have not revivals because we ask not. If we have not wisdom because we ask not, then it is also true that we have not the fulness of the Holy Spirit because we ask not.

These general prayer promises certainly apply to all the things that affect the Christian life. It would be unthinkable to suppose that Christians are encouraged to pray about everything else in the world but for revivals. It would certainly be a perversion of Scripture for us to hold that when God said, "Anything" and "all things whatsoever" He did not mean the most important things a Christian can have in the world, the fulness of His Spirit and the floodtides of revival from Heaven. These general Bible promises, if there were not another word about it in the Bible, would justify any Christian in praying for revival. Yea, these promises alone involve a solemn duty to pray for revival, to pray for the power of God to come upon us, to pray for the salvation of multitudes, to pray that sinners will be convicted, that the Word may be preached with power, that soul-winners may have wisdom, that supernatural results may attend our efforts to carry out the great commission and get the gospel to every creature. These promises invite and command us to pray for revival, to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit, and they abundantly justify the doctrine that revivals come in answer to prayer.

2. However, There Are Also Specific Promises That Revival Comes In Answer To Prayer

But God was so anxious to have us pray for revival, to have us ask for His power, to have us seek with all our hearts at a throne of mercy for the Holy Spirit to breathe upon us for soul-winning, that He has a good many special promises on that very matter in the Bible. I call your attention to some of them.

a. *I Chronicles 7:14*. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray,

The Precious Blood of Jesus

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ins, as hard as I have fought, I just could not do it by myself. And the boy's life is a wreck." She said, "I tell you, nobody can go through the divorce mill and ever be the same again."

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, made a speech some time ago, in which he said that seventy-five per cent of the youthful criminals of America are from broken homes. Sin destroys.

Sin destroys happiness. Two young people fall in love with each other. It is the most beautiful thing in the world. The young man leads her to the marriage altar. That is the most sacred thing in human life. It is also one of the most beautiful scenes in all human life, when love has brought two young lives together, and they are joined in the holy bonds of sacred wedlock, then with all the dreams of youth and the enthusiasm of that love, they face life together and go out to make a new home. Sorrow may come into that home but sorrow will never break it. Sorrow welds two lives together more firmly than ever. For where two people have suffered together, they become one in deed and in truth. Poverty may come and they will face it together and fight the battle together, and when they win the victory they are more closely bound together than ever before. But let sin stick its ugly head into that home, and the home is gone on the rocks.

When I was a pastor in Texas, I walked down the street one day

and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Here is a specific promise for God's people that are called by His name. It is specifically a promise for people who have sinned, and who because of their sin have the judgment of God upon them, drouth, or locusts, or pestilence, as the preceding verse explicitly says. "If God's people who have sinned and brought down His anger upon them, shall humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, then God has promised to hear from Heaven, and to forgive their sin, and to heal their land. This promise involves physical blessing, but it involves the forgiveness of sin, also. It involves God's own people, but it also involves their land. Surely on one would suggest that this promise is altogether for material things and that God is not here encouraging His people to pray for spiritual healing of the land as well. God's people can have a revival, can have their own sins forgiven, and can have their land healed, if they will humble themselves and pray and seek God's face and turn from their wicked way. This is a great revival text. Oh, that we may believe it and teach it to the people and practice it! Forgiveness and power upon us will result, if we meet this condition, and a mighty revival will result with multitudes saved.

b. *Luke 24:49*. "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Jesus has just given the great commission and the command. "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." And He told the apostles, "Ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:47, 48). Then in the specific matter of carrying out the great commission, Jesus commands the disciples to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

They were commanded to tarry in Jerusalem until the power came upon them, power to witness for Jesus and win souls. And here is a clearly implied promise. After they had tarried in Jerusalem, they would receive power.

It is foolish to say that the word pray. The disciples themselves understood it to mean they should "tarry" here does not mean to pray, and pray they did! (Acts 1:13, 14). Jesus did not command them to tarry until a church should be founded, though some people think of that when they think of Pentecost. He did not ask them to tarry until there was a dispensational change and the Holy Spirit came into their bodies to dwell. No,

and when I turned a corner, I saw a man walking up and down the sidewalk. I wondered what it meant. He was looking across the street at a little cottage as he walked back and forth. I passed him by. Down at the corner, I met his beautiful little four year old girl. She came up to me and said, "Mommy doesn't love daddy any more." She said, "Mommy has gone off with another man." Five years before, this young man and this young woman, two of the finest young people in town, had married. A year later this splendid little girl came and they were radiantly happy. When this little girl was born, the young man's father gave them this little bungalow for their home, and for nearly four years that little home was a bit of Heaven with that ray of sunshine that came in to bless it. But one day the mother tampered with sin. Soon she had ventured out into it; and in a year's time the man was walking up and down the sidewalk, twirling that door key in his finger and a little golden-haired girl was saying, "Mommy doesn't love daddy any more."

O, why do people tamper with sin! Why can't people learn that sin does not pay!

2. Sin Makes a Man An Enemy Of God

Not only is sin destructive but sin makes a man an enemy of God. It is rebellion against God. It is defiance of God. Man was made for God's glory. And if man would just turn himself over to God, God would make life wonderful and glorious and sweet and happy and rich. Why will a man pursue a course that makes him an enemy to God? Like Daniel said to Belshazzar, "The God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified?"

Every man in this town who is in sin tonight is absolutely dependent upon God for every breath he breathes; dependent upon God for every heart beat that keeps him alive, dependent upon God for his food and raiment—how quickly God can take it away;—he is dependent upon God for his health; and yet he will use that health and strength that God gives him to defy God. He will turn his back on God and use the breath that God gives him to take God's name in vain. O, what sin will do to a man!

3. Sin Makes a Man An Enemy Of His Own Loved Ones

Sin makes man the worst enemy that his own loved ones ever had. I have seen thousands of Christian women carry a broken heart day after day, week after week, month after month because they had unsaved husbands who would not listen to their pleas and their prayers to stand by their side in the home. And the wife had to fight that

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that happened the day Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:21, 22). The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the bodies of Christians began the very day that Jesus was glorified in His resurrection body, just exactly as Jesus had promised in John 7:37-39. The disciples were not waiting for the indwelling of the Spirit; they were waiting for power from on high, begging God for the fulness of the Spirit. Jesus did not ask them to wait until they had been baptized into the body of Christ. The fact is that all saved people are put into the Body of Christ, buried into that body, made a part of it just as a stone is made a part of a wall, when they are saved. And these disciples were already saved, already part of the mystical body that will be caught out at the rapture, when Jesus comes. No, Jesus expressly told them they were to tarry (in prayer) until they were endued with power from on high, until the revival came, until the fulness of the Holy Ghost should come upon them!

The promise of Luke 24:49 was specifically and immediately for the apostles. But it was also for all of the hundred and twenty who gathered in the upper room. But if the great commission, given in the same passage of Scripture, is for all Christians down through the years, then certainly the promise of the power of the Holy Spirit for those who wait upon the Lord, is for other Christians, too.

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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The Precious Blood of Jesus

(Continued from page two)

battle alone to bring up for God the children who came into that home, to stand alone between them and the devil, literally bleeding her life away. I tell you, it is not fair for a man to stand at the marriage altar and let that woman give him herself and her name and everything in the world—her life from then on is dependent upon him; her happiness is in his hands, and he has taken a solemn vow to stand by her in sickness, in health, in poverty, in adversity, in whatever life may hold—and then to fail her in the thing that means more to her than everything else in life. It is not fair when she is trying to make a Christian home for her children, trying to bring them up for God, trying to fight the devil and keep him away from their door, for that man not to stand in there with her. But not only will he not do that, but one of the saddest things about it is that in many cases, he is simply tearing down all the time the thing she is fighting for, and his influence on her children is leading them the other way. I tell you, a man who will do that is the worst enemy that a woman ever had. No one in the world can ever do anything to her that will break her heart like that. And yet she loves him better than life itself. How can a man do it? You know, I have seen only two cases in my life where a man stood for God and his wife did not stand with him. Just two cases. What does that mean? That simply means that she is fairer than he is. It means that when he stands in there for God, more than ninety-nine times out of one hundred she will stand with him. Many a man has failed a wife and broken her heart, and sent that wife to an untimely grave because he failed her here.

And then, the sinner is not only an enemy to his wife, but he is an enemy to his own children. I would rather anybody would do anything on earth to my two girls than to lead them to Hell. You say, and the law says, that if a man comes in and steals the character of a girl, the father would be justified in taking his life. But I tell you, I had a thousand times rather a man would do that than for somebody to lead one of those little girls to Hell. Nobody could do anything to one of my girls that would be half as tragic as to lead them from God and to Hell for eternity. Yet many a man is leading his own children to Hell over the prayers of his wife.

Besides all this the cruelest thing a person could do to those

who love him best is to live and die without God and go to Hell and leave them without any hope of ever seeing him again. Death is hard enough at best. It is hard enough to follow the body of a child out yonder to the grave and put it away when you know he has gone to Heaven. It is hard enough to say the last goodbye to mother or father or to husband or wife or brother or sister whom you know has gone to Heaven. But when you have to say the last goodbye and know that they have gone to Hell and you have no comfort and no hope, I tell you, you could not do anything to those who love you that would be half as cruel as that.

When I was a pastor out in Texas, I sat by the bedside one day while an old man eighty years of age breathed out his last. I was on one side of the bed and his son, who was then about thirty-five years old and a fine Christian man, sat on the other side. He held one of his father's hands while I held the other as the old man died. When the old man breathed his last this young man stood up by the side of that bed as his great strong body shook with sobs. He fell right across his dead father's body and began to cry out, "Oh, papa, why did you do it? Why did you do it?" I walked around on the other side of the bed and put my arms around him and I said, "Old fellow, don't take it like that. The time comes when all of us must give up our parents." He looked up at me and said, "You don't know and you never will know for your mother and father are both Christians." He said, "I gave up mother seven years ago, but when mother died, it wasn't like this. Mama was a Christian. Mama has gone to heaven. But, Brother Hankins, I will never see Papa again. He has gone to Hell." And then again he fell across that body and said, "O Papa, why did you do it?"

In contrast to that, in a few days after that I had the funeral of another man in that town. His wife and thirteen year old girl came by to look in the casket in the altar of that church. The girl leaned over the casket, took the dead man's face in her two hands and kissed it and wet it with tears and finally she patted his cheeks and said, "Goodbye, Daddy." And then she looked up at her mother and said, "No, no, it isn't goodbye, Daddy, it is just goodnight, Daddy, we will see you in the morning." Then she looked up at me and said, "Brother Hankins, we don't have

to tell him goodbye because he is a Christian and we will see him again."

Yes, there is a morning coming. When you think of that reunion over yonder on the other side, it takes the sting out of death, but when you have to say goodbye and know that it is goodbye forever; that is what sin does. That is what it means to leave God out of your life.

4. Sin Is Retributive

One of the saddest things about sin is that you have to pay off. O my friend, pay-day comes. Don't think that you can beat it. You cannot do it. And to me one of the saddest things about pay-day is that the innocent must suffer with the guilty.

Out in Texas where I was pastor, a beautiful twenty year old girl who was teaching school at a nearby town, came home to spend the summer with her parents. When summer was over, she got on the train to go back to her little school. But during the last school term she had gone into sin and immorality. She realized as she neared the town where she was to teach that she could not go back, that in just a few months her sin must come out. And just before she got to the town she got off at a little village and waited until the next train came going back toward her home. She got on the train to go back home but the nearer she got to home, the more she realized that she did not have courage to face it. When the train pulled into her home town, she did not get off. Eight miles beyond there, the train stopped at the next town, and the porter found this girl in a stateroom on her face, dead. They brought her home. It was one of the saddest funerals I ever witnessed. When the old gray-haired mother came by the casket to tell her baby girl goodbye, she stood there and said, "Oh, my baby! my baby! my baby!"

One morning three months later the father awoke and mother was not in bed. He said, "Mother is up mighty early this morning for some reason." He called, wondering if she were sick. She did not answer. He got up and began to search about the house and call more loudly but there was no answer. After awhile he noticed a little note on the dresser. He walked over, picked it up and read it: "Daddy, I just simply could not stand it any longer. You will find my body in the cistern." He went out in the yard, looked down into the cistern and there was her body.

O, my friend, that is what sin does. And when pay-day comes—and it is coming—you cannot suffer alone; for no man lives to himself and no man dies to himself. O the suffering and the heartache and the heart-break in this old world! Sin has shed rivers of blood and oceans of tears. Sin is the most dangerous thing a person ever tampered with on this earth. You had better play with a Diamond-back rattlesnake than to tamper with sin.

Then the climax of sin, when it is finished, is death. It separates from God forever, and it damns a soul in Hell through an awful eternity.

II. WHAT THE BLOOD DOES

But over against that black picture of sin, there is the blood of Jesus Christ. "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Take all the sin of the world, and imagine it, if you will, all collected in one great heap. Pile it up and up and up until it is like a mighty mountain peak that rears its head up into the sky, yea, to the very throne of God, and paint it with the midnight blackness of Hell—I will give you one sentence that will take it all away: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Praise God, "There is a fountain filled with blood,

Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains."

Hear the Word of God: "Thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isa. 1:18). Isn't God's grace marvelous? Isn't the blood of Christ the greatest gift that was ever given to sin-cursed, wrecked, bruised and bleeding humanity?

1. The Blood

The word *redeemed* has a three-fold meaning. The first is to go into the market and purchase some-

thing.

It is a commercial term, used particularly of the pawn shop. You go into a pawn shop and leave an article there—pawn it—and go back with the price later and lay the price down and you redeem it. On day I was in the devil's pawn shop; and so were you, for we were sold under sin, every one of us. But, thank God, Jesus Christ entered the devil's pawn shop and laid down the price of His precious blood and purchased me, redeemed me. So the word *redemption* has another meaning, not only to purchase but to purchase out of. When Jesus Christ went into the devil's pawn shop and laid down the price of my redemption, He not only purchased me from the devil but purchased me out of the pawn shop. Thank God, He takes us out and sets us free.

The third meaning is to *loose*. And that means, my friend, that we are never to go back into the pawn shop again. Praise God that when it is done, the work is done forever. I am redeemed forever by the precious blood of Jesus! Not by silver and gold, for it is something which silver and gold could not do; but thank God, His blood can and does redeem forever.

There is a ceremony in the old Jewish ceremonial law that so beautifully pictures what the sacrifice of Christ does. On the day of atonement the high priest brought two goats, two live goats, and laid his hands upon their heads, and there confessed the sins of the people, symbolically laying all the sin of the congregation on the heads of the two goats. Then he took one of them and severed the veins in his throat, letting out the life blood which he caught in a basin and took that hot blood into the holy of holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat as an atonement for their sins. Thank God, one day Christ shed His blood on the old rugged cross. Can't you see it streaming down from the thorn-crowned brow, from His hands, His feet and His side and from His lacerated back until the whole cross is dyed with it? That is the price of our redemption. God is propitiated; man is reconciled. The remedy for sin has been provided; Jesus' blood is the all-sufficient remedy.

Then the high priest took the other goat and gave him to a trusted servant, who took that live goat and carried him to the back side of the desert and turned him loose, and left him there to wander about until he perished, bearing away the sins of the people, never to come back again, never to be seen again by the eyes of man. O, that is what John the Baptist meant when He said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh (beareth) away the sin of the world." He not only bore my sins in His body on the cross; but thank God, like the scapegoat, He took them away, out yonder where they will never come back and where no eye shall ever see them again. Thank God, they are gone forever.

The old Negro was right when somebody said, "Is there anything God cannot do?" The old Negro said, "Yes, there is one thing He can't do." Everybody was astonished and the questioner said, "You know there is nothing that God cannot do." The old Negro said, "Yes, there is. There is one thing God can't do. God can't see my sins no more when they are under the blood." O, God says, "I will put your sins behind my back and I will remember them against you no more forever." (See Isa. 38:17, Heb. 10:17). "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

2. We Can Overcome the Devil By The Blood

And then, we overcome the devil by the blood. Listen to what we read in Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb."

There is another picture symbol in the Old Testament account of the night of the passover, which represents this same truth of overcoming by the blood. You see the blood not only on the lintels above the doors, but there is blood also on the two side posts of the doors. The blood on the lintels above is the blood that stands between Israel and God, between them and the wrath of God against whom they have sinned. But, thank God, there is not only blood on the lintels of the doors, but there is blood on the side posts, that is between them and the world, the flesh and the devil. Thank God for the pre-

cious blood of Jesus Christ.

Isn't it great to be saved?

Not only do we overcome the devil here by the blood of Christ, but John saw him completely overcome and driven into hell by the Cross. Hear it! "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit..." The devil, that old deceiver, is cast into that pit, and the angel turns the key. Do you know what I think that key is? I think it is the cross. For the day when Jesus died on the cross was the beginning of the end for the devil. God had promised in the garden of Eden that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head, and that bruise to the head means death. The devil's death warrant was signed and sealed that day when Jesus looked up into the Father's face and said, "It is finished." One day we found our way to the cross. We were washed in His blood and redeemed out of the devil's pawn shop; and by that blood we will overcome him, thank God, and will be more than conquerors.

The blood, the blood, the precious blood that cleanses from all sin! How do you receive it? Just one word is enough. Accept by faith His finished work. Do not try to add anything to it. It does not need it. It is enough. Do not try to add any of your works to it. It does not need them. Do not try to add ordinances to it. Do not try to add church membership to it. Do not put a priest between you and it. For the veil of the temple has been rent in twain from top to bottom, and everything that stands between the soul and God has been removed and the holy of holies has been thrown wide open. Come by way of the cross. "For there is one Mediator between God and man." Accept the finished work of Jesus Christ by faith, and it is done, the transaction is done.

The Editor Adds An Appeal And A Decision Blank

Dear reader, you have read Dr. Hankins' deeply moving sermon, your are impressed, surely, with the terrible things sin does, and are glad to see what the precious blood of Christ can do. Are you saved? Have all your sins been put under the blood, by trusting Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation? If you have not definitely and once for all committed your heart to Christ; if you have not before this accepted Him as your own personal Saviour, by a definite transaction, will you not do so today, right now? Here I add a decision blank.

Will you first, in your heart honestly confess your sin to Christ, and trust Him today to forgive all your sins and save your soul? Then, second, will you sign this decision blank and show it to your wife or husband or friend or pastor as a confession that today you take Christ as your own Saviour?

Then, third, will you either write me in your own words, or clip this coupon, and mail it, or copy this statement and mail it to me?

Thus will I know you are saved, which will make me very happy; I will write Dr. Hankins of your decision, which will rejoice his heart, and then I will write you a personal letter of counsel and encouragement, and will send helpful literature. So decide and let me know at once if you will this very day accept Christ and trust in His blood to cover all your sins and save your soul.

Decision Blank

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor
The Sword of the Lord

145 N. Hale

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Dr. Hankins' sermon, "The Precious Blood of Jesus" in *The Sword of the Lord*. I confess to God that I am a sinner, unsaved till now. Here and now I repent of my sins, I accept Christ as my own personal Saviour and trust Him today to forgive all my sins and save my soul. I will confess Christ as my Saviour and by His help I purpose to live for Him the remainder of my life.

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NEWS ABOUT SWORD LITERATURE

(Continued from page one)

Christian Reformed Church. I was just a self-righteous Pharisee. I can see that now, but I couldn't then. That night in the service, I felt I was not saved. Something was wrong with my heart, but I could not understand what it was. I believed Christ died and arose again. I believed He was the Son of God, but that is not enough. I did not raise my hand, and left that meeting with a sad heart. The next day I was still disturbed, and one thing led to another, until I finally thought I had committed the unpardonable sin.

"Some weeks later this song, 'Jesus Paid It All', came to me, but I had this terrible fear in my heart so that I could not accept the truth. I did not know that the Holy Spirit was speaking to me. So, for ten years I have had this fear hanging over me. And then my husband sent for three books from you, and I read the wrong book first, *Twelve Tremendous Themes*. In there, you mentioned the unpardonable sin, so that I feared more than ever. I thought I would go mad when I read that. I became a wreck mentally and physically; I could not eat or sleep. I stopped reading on page 101. A few days later, I saw the book, *When Skeletons Come Out of the Closets*. I was afraid when I read that, but my eyes went down the list of subjects until they rested on 'Jesus, the Sinner's Refuge,' and 'The Last Invitation in the Bible.' I still wanted to be saved. On page 188, I received hope: 'Someone reads this, perhaps, who fears you have committed the unpardonable sin' . . . etc. I wish I had read this book first. I would probably not be a wreck. I gave my heart to Jesus the best I could. I can see now that God loves me and will save me, that the Holy Spirit led me on.

"I am taking treatments for my nerves and am resting. My faith is still very weak. Will you pray for me, Dr. Rice, that my faith may become strong? I want to serve Jesus with my whole heart. I have spurned His love too long; already I am about 38 years old. We have your book on *Prayer* also.

"Cordially yours,"

Mrs. J. C.

Hudsonville, Michigan

Good News From Italy

"Wilbraham, Mass.

"June 16, 1944

"I am writing to inquire if I can get some booklets entitled *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* I had one, I do not remember where I got it, and I sent it to a boy in Italy in the service and this is what he wrote to me:

"Dear Mon:

"I received two letters from you dated April 2 and 23. Once again I'm stumped for words. I'll tell you why. I was reading the booklet you sent me entitled, *What Must I Do To Be Saved* by Evangelist John R. Rice. Something happened, mon: You have done for me what no other person could or would do."

"This boy wants another one of those booklets to send to his sweetheart. . . I would like to send several to this lad that he might keep up the good work he has started. I do not know this lad only through his precious letters to me. He is a buddy of my son who did his part

in witnessing for our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Mrs. F. E. B.

"I Was Converted Yesterday"

"Charlotte, Michigan

"June 1, 1944

"My dear Mr. Rice:

"I have just finished reading your booklet called, *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* I think it is the best book I ever read. I am a girl of 13 years and I was converted yesterday. I can't describe how I felt afterwards. It seemed as though I had been in the dark and suddenly it was light.

"Will you please send me about 25 booklets of *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* I would like to give them to my friends."

"Yours truly"

Miss M. M.

Child Saved; Wants To Win

Loved Ones

"Cushing, Texas

"June 20, 1944

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"I am a little girl eleven years old. My aunt just read the book, *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* I realize I am a sinner and that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, so I can go to live with Him in Heaven when I die. If you will send me twenty of the little booklets I will give them out to my little friends and cousins."

"Your little sister in Christ,"

L. B.

Sick One Turns to Christ for

Salvation

"Pettibone, N. D.

"June 23, 1944

"Dear Mr. Rice:

"Greetings in the name of our lovely Lord."

"I am sending this signed confession to you. Mrs. W. . . is sick in bed and so can't write very well. Not sure of her age but she draws old age pension and so is sixty-five or over. She is going to join the Congregational church as soon as she can sit up. I talked to her several times for six weeks and gave her the tract a week ago. Pray for her husband that he may come, too. I enjoy *The Sword of the Lord*.

"In His Service,"

Mabel A. Weller

Mrs. W. . . signed the decision slip from the booklet, *What Must I Do To Be Saved*, which reads:

"Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour and gladly mail this to let you know."

Inmate Trusts God

"Dear Sir:

"I read your name on the front of a book named, *The Soul Winner's Fire*. It was given to me by a man who comes to the city penal farm, a jail or farm for law-breakers. I am here serving a sentence for doing wrong.

"What I wanted to tell you is that I have heard you preach in Roanoke, Virginia. You were holding a revival there. My grandmother attended regularly. Mr. Rice, I am eighteen years old, and I have just discovered I can't get through this world without the Lord as my Saviour. I accepted Him as my personal Saviour today, June 18, Sunday. I felt happy and relieved out of my burdens and troubles."

"I wish at your next service you would pray for me in audience for God to help me stay on the right path. My time is up August 23, 1944. Then I can work for the Lord the best of my ability. I shall follow in His footsteps as long as I possibly can. It's hard in jail, though. I would like for you to write to me and send me some encouragement."

"An appreciative friend,"

W. L. C.

Letter From "Killer" Sentenced To Die June 30

The following letter was sent to us by Mr. A. C. Smith who works by letter in the Texas Prison System. This month Mr. Smith has sent us several letters from inmates telling of the blessings received from the booklets, Bibles,

and other literature which he sends. We suppose this man has been executed now, but we want our readers to see how a new convert feels facing death after having received Christ in his heart.

"Huntsville, Texas

May 23, 1944

"Dear Friend

"I received your most welcome letter of the 19th, also the money. Dear friend, I am sure you can find a more worthy cause to use money for, so do not send me any more. I have a New Testament that my kind friend, Rev. E. Hester, at Crockett, Texas, gave me, but I will appreciate the Bible you are sending. You asked me to tell you more about myself; there isn't much to tell. My mother and father are dead, and I do not have any sisters; one brother but I do not know where he is now. I have not been married and I do not have any friends out there besides Rev. Hester and his very dear wife. I love them with all my heart because if it wasn't for them, I would have left this world a sinner, but through them I have found Jesus and am happy and have placed my life and soul in God's hands and it is His will as to what happens from now on. I know lots of people will say that a condemned man will say, 'Oh, he is just trying to gain favor and friends to try to get help,' but I do not care what they say or think for I know how I feel and that is all that counts with me. I know now that when I leave this world I am going to a better place for eternity. I am glad you are helping the boys at the units. I want you to know I appreciate your help and friendship and your advice very much. Hope you will write again. I will close for now. "Sincerely yours, C. W.

Mr. Smith writes this comment at the bottom of the above letter:

"This man, 37, was given a total of 130 years in prison. He was sent to Eastham Unit, which is called the killer's farm. On this unit he killed another convict. He was tried at the county seat, Crockett, Texas, and was sentenced to the electric chair, sentenced to take effect June 30, 1944. While in prison at Crockett, this man of God, Rev. Blum E. Hester and wife, called on him and led him to Christ. This you will see from this letter. My, if only more preachers would be interested in these unfortunate boys! There are four in death row now, two white, two colored. ALL have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Praise His name!"

The demand for the 24 page booklet, *What Must I Do To Be Saved* has been so large that we have had great difficulty keeping it in stock. We are sorry that we have had to delay sending out thousands of copies. However, last week we were able to fill many of the orders and other copies will be sent just as quickly as they come off the press. We have tried to get them to chaplains first since they change location very often. We are trying to reach the men in the service before they are gone from our shores. God grant that not one boy wearing the nation's uniform, bleeding and dying for those things we hold dearer than life, shall go down to death and despair without another chance to meet the Saviour!

Don't you know of someone who needs to know of the Saviour? Dr. Rice's 24 page beautiful booklet, *What Must I Do To Be Saved* has many, many Scriptures, and the way of salvation is made plain for sinners. We will send you as many as you can prayerfully use on the condition that you give them only to those who promise to read them, and wherever possible, accompany the booklet with a personal word. We cannot afford to let you have them to hand out promiscuously to people who will not read them: they are too expensive for that.

These Helped Us Give Free Booklets In June

The following helped on the printing bill during the month of June, for which we are grateful.

Mr. Robert L. Chambers, Tenn.	5.00
Mrs. Maude Russell, Texas	2.00
Mrs. Arthur Sallee, Texas	1.00
Miss Lola Bradshaw, Illinois	26.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Evans, Fla.	5.00
Mrs. Vera Myers, Calif.	.90
Miss Geneva Greator, Colo.	2.00
Mr. Peter Plucker, S. D.	2.00
Mrs. Sam Jackson, Wash.	1.00
Mrs. I. R. Carson, Colo.	3.00
Mrs. J. W. Melton, Ky.	1.00
A friend, Minn.	15.00

The Bible Proves That Prayer Brings Revival

(Continued from page two)

If the apostles needed a supernatural endowment of power from on high to get people saved, then how should we ever hope to have Bible revivals, and have New Testament results follow our witnessing, if we, too, are not endued with the same supernatural power of the Holy Spirit? And if they needed to wait and pray for the fullness of the Spirit for revival power, we may be sure that God has not changed His plan now. We too, need to tarry and pray for revivals.

o. Luke 11:13. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" You must read the context to understand the blessedness of this promise. Jesus had just given the parable of a man who goes to his friend at midnight and, hammering upon the door,

says, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him." (Luke 11:5, 6). Jesus is explaining how a Christian can get the Bread of Life for a sinner. This is part of Christ's lesson on prayer. The bread mentioned here is not material bread, but spiritual bread. The request is not for something the Christian wants for himself, but the Bread of Life which he wants to carry to a sinner. And Jesus explains how the friend inside the door will not rise and give the three loaves because he is his friend, "yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth."

In other words, Jesus is saying that by constant begging, or pleading, or supplication; that is, by importunity, we can have the Bread of Life to carry to sinners when we heretofore have had nothing to set before them. And then Jesus says, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9), and then He sums up the entire teaching of the preceding parable in verse 13. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" We may have the Holy Spirit in His mighty reviving, soul-winning power; we may have the Bread of Life to give to sinners. But we can only have it by importunity, that is, by continued prayer. God gives the Holy Spirit, and soul-winning power, to them that ask him."

There could not be a clearer promise than this, that revival power, soul-winning power, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, is for those who pray to be filled with the Spirit and to have His power.

Be careful that you read the context carefully and you will see that Jesus is here clearly teaching Christians to pray for the soul-winning power of the Holy Spirit, and has no reference to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as careless students have sometimes thought. Christians are to ask for the Holy Spirit in His mighty soul-winning power, to come upon them. And Christ has promised that we need not fear that in such a case we will get a stone instead of bread, or a serpent instead of fish, or a scorpion instead of an egg. We need not fear the fanaticism of speaking in tongues, or the false claims of a "second blessing" with the eradication of the carnal nature, if we are really praying for the power of God to help us win souls. God is better than an earthly father and gives the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.

We do not have revivals, then, because of lack of prayer. Individual Christians do not have the power of the Holy Spirit because of lack of prayer. Prayer brings revivals. Prayer brings the power of God, soul-winning power.

We have given Bible promises to prove that revivals come in answer to prayer: next week, God willing, we will give Bible examples that show revivals and the power of the Holy Spirit came in Bible times in answer to prayer.

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